

Appl. No. 09/845,874

Amdt. Dated June 17, 2004

Reply to Office Action of April 8, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 remain in the application.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-4 have been rejected as being anticipated by Iida (U.S. Patent 4,748,594) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the prior art in their previous form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, an operating method, which has the steps of:

storing the data in the memory device a plurality of times resulting in originally stored data; and

reconstructing the originally stored data as required from the data stored a plurality of times taking into account a direction of any memory content changes which arise.

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Iida discloses an integrated circuit device having a memory. A plurality of identical versions, that is, different sets, of a given piece of data are stored at different addresses in the memory 200. The information is read out on a time-division basis. When the three sets of information have been read out a logic operation is performed in the majority circuit so that an output is obtained according to the truth table shown in Table 1 (col. 5) of Iida. The integrated circuit as described by Ida (see col. 3, line 10), has original data being reconstructed by using "means for performing a majority logic operation." In contrast, the present claimed invention allows the original data to be reconstructed subject to "any memory content changes which arise." This feature is further described on page 9, line 13 to page 10, line 10 and clearly is different from the method disclosed by Ida. There is no disclosure or teaching of reconstructing the originally stored data from the data stored dependent on the data stored in the memory device taking into consideration a direction of any memory content change that may occur.

The Examiner has referred to col. 10, line 3 as providing the basis in Iida for the claim limitation "reconstructing the originally stored data...from the data stored...and the additional information dependent on the data stored in the

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memory device." However, Ida discloses "temporarily storing the earlier read-out information,...performing a majority logic operation on the sets of read-out information, and...taking out correct information from the majority logic...." There is no disclosure of providing reconstructing the originally stored data from the stored data as recited in the claims.

Clearly, Iida does not show "reconstructing the originally stored data as required from the data stored a plurality of times taking into account a direction of any memory content changes which arise" as recited in claim 1 of the instant application.

Moreover, Ida does not disclose "providing additional information dependent on the data being stored in the memory device; and reconstructing the originally stored data as required from the data stored a plurality of times and the additional information" as set forth in dependent claim 4.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because

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they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1. Further,  
dependent claim 4 sets forth features that are not shown in  
the prior art.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of  
claims 1-4 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims  
to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a  
telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can  
be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment  
is requested, as it is believed to place the application in  
better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of  
the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition  
for extension is herewith made.

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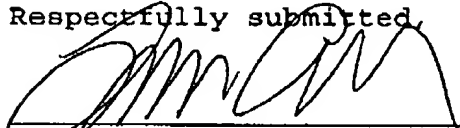
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Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to  
Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and  
Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Applicants

FDP/kf

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